

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A ~~computer-implemented~~ method comprising:  
receiving invoice information in an application-specific data object format from  
each of a plurality of applications;  
translating the invoice information into a common invoice data object format,  
**wherein**  
**the translating is performed by a processor,**  
**the common invoice data object format comprises at least one custom**  
**data element, and**  
**the custom data element is configured to allow customization of the**  
**common invoice data object format;** and  
determining essential data elements of the common invoice data object format,  
wherein  
**the essential data elements are stored in a memory coupled to the**  
**processor, and**  
the essential data elements comprise  
an identification data element,  
a base data element,  
a pricing data element,  
a shipping data element, and  
a line item details data element.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-implemented method of claim 1 further comprising:  
inter-exchanging invoice information in the common invoice data object format  
between two or more of the plurality of applications.

3. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 2 further comprising:  
translating invoice information in the common invoice data object to an  
application-specific data object format for use by a respective application.
4. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 3 wherein the common invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.
5. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 4 further comprising the precedent operations of:  
creating a common invoice data object format including at least the essential data elements.
6. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 6 wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.
9. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 8 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.
10. **(Currently Amended)** A machine-readable storage medium;

a data structure, wherein  
the data structure is stored on the machine-readable storage medium, and  
the data structure uses an extensible markup language format, the data structure  
comprising:

**at least one custom data element configured to allow customization of the  
common invoice data object format;**

an invoice identification data element;  
an invoice base data element;  
an invoice pricing data element;  
an invoice shipping data element; and  
an invoice line item details data element.

11. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 10  
wherein the data structure further comprises:  
at least one complex data element.

12. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 11  
wherein the data structure further comprises:  
one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related  
party data element, a related payment method data element, a related  
payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A machine-readable medium that provides executable  
instructions, which, when executed by a computing system, cause the computing system  
to perform a method comprising:  
receiving invoice information in an application-specific data object format from  
each of a plurality of applications;  
translating the invoice information into a common invoice data object format,  
**wherein**

**the common invoice data object format comprises at least one custom data element, and**  
**the custom data element is configured to allow customization of the common invoice data object format;** and

determining essential data elements of the common invoice data object format,  
wherein

the essential data elements comprise  
an identification data element,  
a base data element,  
a pricing data element,  
a shipping data element, and  
a line item details data element.

14. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the method further comprises:

inter-exchanging invoice information in the common invoice data object format  
between two or more of the plurality of applications.

15. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the method further comprises:

translating invoice information in the common invoice data object to an  
application-specific data object format for use by a respective application.

16. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the common  
invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

17. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the  
method further comprises the precedent operations of:

creating a common invoice data object format including at least the essential data  
elements.

18. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.

21. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:

a plurality of processing systems, each processing system storing at least one application that processes invoice information, the invoice information having an application-specific data object format; and  
an integration server, coupled via a network, to each of the plurality of processing systems, the integration server translating invoice information from an application specific data object format to a common invoice data object format, wherein  
the common invoice data object format comprises

**at least one custom data element, wherein**

**the custom data element is configured to allow**

**customization of the common invoice data object  
format, and**

a set of essential data elements,

the set of essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats, and the set of essential data elements comprise

- an identification data element,
- a base data element,
- a pricing data element,
- a shipping data element, and
- a line item details data element.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein invoice information in the common invoice data object format is inter-exchanged between two or more processing systems.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the common invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.